

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 25, 26, 28 and 29 as follows.

1.-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a face probability calculating step of identifying ~~a candidate~~ candidates for a human face region within an image and calculating a human face probability that ~~the each~~ candidate for the human face region represents a human face;

a portrait probability calculating step of multiplying a value corresponding to ~~the one~~ human face probability of one candidate by values of the other human face probabilities of the other candidates and ~~calculating~~ outputting a portrait probability that the image is a portrait; and

a ~~judging~~ determining step of ~~determining~~ judging whether the image is the portrait by comparing the portrait probability with a threshold value.

26. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to Claim 25, wherein said portrait probability calculating step includes a selecting step of selecting higher K human face probabilities from among the human face probabilities for the candidates calculated in said face probability calculating step and a multiplying step of multiplying values a value corresponding to one of the selected K human face probabilities by the values corresponding to the other selected K human face probabilities.

27. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 25, further comprising an image processing step of processing the image in accordance with the result in said judging step.

28. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to Claim 25, further comprising a saving step of saving human face probabilities for the candidates regarding each of a plurality of partial spaces in M-dimensional space,

wherein, in said face probability calculating step, M-dimensional vectors are generated by applying a predetermined algorithm to the ~~candidate~~ candidates for the human face region and a probability that the partial spaces corresponding to the generated M-dimensional vectors represent a human face is calculated from among the saved human face probabilities.

29. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a face probability calculating unit that identifies ~~a candidate~~ candidates for a human face region within an image and calculates a human face probability that ~~the~~ each candidate for the human face region represents a human face;

a portrait probability calculating unit that multiplies a value corresponding to ~~the~~ one human face probability of one candidate by values of the other human face probabilities of the other candidates and calculates outputting a portrait probability that the image is a portrait; and

a judging determining unit that judges determining whether the image is the portrait by comparing the portrait probability with a threshold value.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for performing an image processing method, said method comprising:

a face probability calculating step of identifying ~~a candidate~~ candidates for a human face region within an image and calculating a human face probability that each the candidate for the human face region represents a human face;

a portrait probability calculating step of multiplying a value corresponding to the one human face probability of one candidate by values of the other human face probabilities of the other candidates and calculating outputting a portrait probability that the image is a portrait; and

a judging determining step of judging determining whether the image is the portrait by comparing the portrait probability with a threshold value.